

**Appln No. 10/552,490**  
**Amdt date March 20, 2008**  
**Reply to Office action of December 26, 2007**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-6 and 8 are pending. Claims 1-4 are amended, claim 7 is canceled, and new claim 8 is added.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference character 30 in FIGs. 1 and 2 not shown in the description. In view of the amendment to the specification, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

The abstract are objected to because of the use of legal phraseology. In view of the amendment to the abstract, it is respectfully requested that the above objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stone (U.S. 3,785,412). Applicant submits that all of the claims currently pending for consideration are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "a housing including a taking-in/out space," "a plurality of nozzles provided above the taking-in/out space," and "a nozzle cover for covering the plurality of nozzles and the obstacle detection means to partially close the taking-in/out space." Stone does not teach the above limitations because, Stone does not have the plurality of nozzles provided above the taking-in/out space, nor does it have a nozzle cover for covering the plurality of nozzles and the obstacle detection means to partially close the taking-in/out space. Furthermore, none of the cited references disclose the above limitations.

As a result, the amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Stone and is therefore allowable over the cited references.

In short, the independent claim 1 defines a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-6, and 8 are dependent from claim 1 and therefore include all the limitations of the allowable claim 1 and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these

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claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claim 1, and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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RRT/clv

CLV PAS785459.1-\* 03/20/08 1:47 PM